

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 00166 231907Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 /016 W

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R 231525Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 143

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, TO

SUBJECT: FALL OUT DEADLINE FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTS

REF: STATE 016021

1. POST WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLY WITH NEW DEADLINES. DEPARTMENT HOWEVER, SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IN TOGOLESE ADMINISTRATIVE ENVIRONMENT, THIS REDUCED TIME FRAME FOR STARTING TRAVEL AND SETTING FIRM ETA WILL CAUSE PROBLEMS.

2. DIFFICULTIES GO BEYOND NECESSITY TO CORRECT INVITATION LETTERS ALREADY SENT AND UNAVOIDABLE IMPRESSION THAT EMBASSY IS INEFFICIENT AND CONFUSED. REAL PROBLEM IS THAT SHORTENED DEADLINES OVERLOAD GOT BUREAUCRATIC MACHINERY. ALL OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITH GOT MUST GO THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY. THIS INVOLVES MINIMUM LOSS OF WEEK FOR EACH PIECE OF CORRESPONDENCE GOING AND COMING. NO TOGOLESE WILL ACT WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL PIECE OF PAPER. ONCE INFORMED IN WRITING OF OUR INVITATION EACH IV WILL HAVE TO ADJUST HIS SCHEDULE TO PERMIT HIS ABSENCE DURING REDUCED TIME FRAME AND SEEK APPROVAL FROM HIS MINISTER. IN SOME CASES INTERMEDIARY AUTHORITIES MUST ALSO GIVE APPROVAL. NONE OF THESE ARE LIKELY TO VIEW THE MATTER WITH SAME SENSE OF URGENCY AS DEPARTMENT, EMBASSY, OR INVITEE. FINALLY, ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATIONS FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS BY HIGH TOGOLESE OFFICIALS IS MATTER OF SUFFICIENT SENSITIVITY THAT IN MOST CASES PERSONAL APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT EYADEMA WILL BE SOUGHT. EVERY STEP OF PROCESS IS SUBJECT TO ROUTINE DELAYS SUCH AS OFFICIALS

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PAGE 02 LOME 00166 231907Z

FREQUENTLY TRAVELING OUT OF COUNTRY. IN SUCH CASES ACTING TOGOLESE

AUTHORITIES ARE NORMALLY UNWILLING TO TAKE DECISION WHEN CONSEQUENCES WILL BE FELT AFTER RETURN OF AUTHORITY HE IS TEMPORARILY REPLACING. IN CASES WHERE PRINCIPAL CANNOT TRAVEL, PROCESS WILL HAVE TO BE RESTARTED FOR ALTERNATE. OF COURSE, WHERE OUR ADMINISTRATIVE DEMANDS PROVE INSURMOUNTABLE, OFFERING OF AN IV GRANT BECOMES A MINUS NOT A PLUS IN OUR RELATIONS.

3. IN SHORT EMBASSY FORESEES CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL DIFFICULTY IN MEETING NEW DEADLINES. ALTHOUGH POST APPRECIATES ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE FOR DEPARTMENT IN FIRING UP IV PROGRAM EARLY, IT HOPES FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS IN IV PROCEDURES WILL BE IN DIRECTION OF GREATER FLEXIBILITY. THE IV PROGRAM OVER THE YEARS HAS HAD SIGNIFICANT AND BENEFICIAL INFLUENCE ON TOGOLESE PERCEPTIONS OF U.S. PRECISELY BECAUSE IV PROGRAM IS GOOD ONE, EMBASSY REGRETS NEW RIGIDITIES.  
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